(a) whether Government had some time back conceptualized a plan to construct a Highway from Agartala to the nearest town in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Extradition Treaty with various countries

*339. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of criminals have taken shelters in many countries and the Extradition Treaty with these countries have not yielded any results for deportation of these criminals to India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is actively pursuing the return of fugitive offenders in foreign countries and in the last 7 years, 17 fugitive offenders have been sent back to India by foreign Governments. The Government's policy is to enter into Extradition Treaties with as many countries as possible in order to establish a legal framework for bringing back fugitive offenders.

Transfer of industries to private hands due to disinvestment policy

*340. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's existing policy of disinvestment has led to transfer of several important industries to private hands;

(b) whether this transfer would lead to gradual reduction in the number of employees working in these units; and

(c) whether Government propose to tackle this issue; if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) During the period 1999 to 2002, the Government has transferred management control through strategic sale in Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL), Lagan Jute Machinery Company (LJMC), Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO), Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), HTL Ltd., CMC Ltd., IBP Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL), and Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. (IPCL) and 100% Government share in 19 hotel properties and one hotel (through lease-cum-management) of India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd. (ITDC) and 3 hotels of Hotel Corporation of India.

(b) Transfer of management control to a strategic partner cannot be linked directly to employment. In the case of CMC Ltd., there has been a net addition in employment of 425 against the employees strength of 3119 at the time of disinvestment. The data compiled for nine disinvested companies including CMC Ltd., ten hotels of ITDC and one hotel of Hotel Corporation India shows that against an initial employment level of 43,171 at the time of disinvestment there was a total attrition of 3,733 employees, while 964 employees have been recruited. Therefore, the net loss in employment was 2,769, which is around 6% of employment at the time of disinvestment, of which 663 were on account of retirement and resignation. There have been no cases of retrenchment post disinvestment. Out of the net loss of employment of 2769, over three fourth, or 2145 jobs are accounted for by just two companies; MFIL, BALCO. However, in the case of these two companies, 3401 jobs were lost in the period 1991-92 till date of disinvestment, indicating that the loss of employment is not linked to disinvestment alone, but relates to the restructuring requirements of these companies.

(c) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transactions Agreements, executed as a part of strategic sale, to ensure that there is

no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and even thereafter separation is possible only under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as applicable under Department of Public Enterprises guidelines or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment whichever is more beneficial for the employees. Productive use of the existing assets of the disinvested PSUs and the creation of new assets make the enterprises more competitive and thereby provide the best guarantee of continued employment; that also is one sustainable way of ensuring expansion of employment.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Programme for rural employment

†2317. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing programme for creating rural employment;

(b) if so, the State where this programme has been introduced during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) the achievements under this programme during the said period alongwith the amount spent, State-wise; and

(d) the assessment made during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are implementing various schemes for creation of employment specially in rural areas throughout the country.

Under the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, the programme, *i.e.* Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is being implemented throughout the country by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The details of State-wise achievements made under this programme alongwith the amount spent during the period is at Statement I and II (*see* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.